

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 299745

63

ORIGIN EB-07

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TO USMISSION OECD PARIS

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EXCON

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1

TAGS: ESTC, COCOM, FR, UR

SUBJECT: FRENCH TO SELL SOVIETS SEISMIC EQUIPMENT

REF: OECD PARIS 34161

1. USCOCOM DEL WILL RECALL DISCUSSIONS AT OCTOBER EXPORT CONTROL SUBCOMMITTEE MEETING OF CONCERN RAISED BY US OVER SEISMIC RESEARCH EQUIPMENT BEING LEASED OR SOLD TO SOVIETS WHICH COULD HAVE ASW APPLICATION. REFTEL REPORTED FRENCH CONFIRMATION OF LEASE (IN RESPONSE TO US QUERY) OF SEISMIC DATA COLLECTION EQUIPMENT TO USSR FOR EXPLORATION. HE APPRECIATE FRENCH WILLINGNESS TO CONFIRM THIS FACT AND THEIR OFFER TO ASCERTAIN WHETHER ANY OF THE EQUIPMENT WAS EMBARGOED.

2. WE HAVE SINCE LEARNED THAT THE FRENCH GEOPHYSICAL FIRM COMPAGNIE GENERALE DE GEOPHYSIQUE (CGG) HAS SIGNED A CONTRACT WITH THE SOVIET UNION TO SELL 10 MILLION DOLS WORTH OF MARINE SEISMIC EXPLORATION EQUIPMENT TO OUTFIT TWO SOVIET VESSELS. THE SALE INCLUDES STANDARD SEISMIC SURVEY ARRAY OF EXPLORATION EQUIPMENT, COMPLEMENTED BY A COMPUTER
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PAGE 02 STATE 299745

SYSTEM INCORPORATING A FLOATING POINT ARRAY PROCESSOR AND

A SOPHISTICATED CGG STREAMER UTILIZING A 48-CHANNEL CABLE (AMG-37-43) AND HYDROPHONES (HC-202). BOTH OF THE LATTER ITEMS ARE SUBJECT TO COCOM CONTROLS.

3. USDEL SHOULD AGAIN APPROACH FRENCH DEL NOTING THAT WE ARE STILL WAITING FOR FURTHER INFORMATION FROM FRENCH ON EARLIER (PARA 1) TRANSACTION. USDEL MAY ALSO CONVEY INFORMATION GIVEN PARA 2 TO FRENCH AND NOTE THAT SINCE THIS LATTER TRANSACTION APPEARS REQUIRE COCOM APPROVAL WE WOULD BE INTERESTED IN ITS CURRENT STATUS. ROBINSON

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